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**THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014**

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**ENTERTAINMENT:** Lakeshore student wows judges at Music Not Mischief concert in Toronto



SUPPLIED PHOTO/LISA MACHTOSH/PHOTOGRAPHY

Lakeshore Catholic High School student Jessica Leslie gives a show-stopping performance at the Music Not Mischief competition in Toronto.

## Teen rocks competition

**MELISSA MANGELSEN**  
Inport News Staff

It was praise any rock star would appreciate.

When Jessica Leslie hit her last chord, Matt Rahn put down his guitar and began saluting the 15-year-old.

Rahn, lead guitarist and vocalist for Traceline, knew the young musician had blown away judges with her rendition of Led Zeppelin's *Rock and Roll*.

There was no denying Leslie showed her guitar chops April 30 at the Music Not Mischief concert at Toronto's Mod Club.

The Lakeshore Catholic High School student was chosen the competition's top prize, becoming the second Niagara winner in as many years and the only contestant in its six-year run to bring home a perfect score.

Judges included Platinum Blonde singer Mark Holmes and drummer Dan Todd, Toronto city councillors Mark Grimes and Sarah Doucette, and Carparelli Guitars CEO and program co-founder Mike Carpanelli.

See MUSIC on Page 2

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# UPFRONT

■ **HEALTH CARE:** Forster to present private members motion next week

## Life support sought for local hospitals

**ALLAN DENVER**  
Inport News Staff

Welland MPP Cindy Forster will be presenting her provincial government colleagues in the hope of preserving the Welland and Port Colborne hospitals.

The New Democratic Party representative will present a private members motion May 8, asking her fellow MPPs from all three political parties to support her efforts, in light of plans to close the facilities to replace them with a new south Niagara hospital to be built in Niagara Falls, as well as two urgent care centres to be located in south Niagara.

Her motion says "any health care planning in Niagara must include preserving the Welland site as a full service hospital and the Port Colborne site as an Urgent Care Centre to ensure full and readily available access to the

constituents of Welland, Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Pelham."

Forster said she remains committed to building a new hospital to replace the aging Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls, but stressed that existing hospitals serving her constituents still have a vital role to play.

She said her motion will be discussed for a total of 50 minutes, with input and questions from representatives of all three provincial government parties.

"I'm going to be asking people to really think long and hard about this," and telling her fellow MPPs that "this could be coming to your neighbourhood," she said.

"We've had some hospitals close in smaller communities across the province, and people are still not happy about that in a variety of communities."

She said people throughout Welland and Port Colborne also remain concerned about the plans to close the local hospitals.

Forster said she was recently speaking to a visually impaired senior at a local retirement home, terrified about the plans to close the nearby Welland Hospital.

"She's legally blind and can't drive... She said, 'How am I going to get to health services if they're not located within my community?'" Forster recalled. "Hospitals need to be in the middle of communities and we need to be able to access them."

Meanwhile, plans are moving forward to develop plans for a new hospital in Niagara Falls that will result in the closure of those existing hospitals.

Ministry of Health spokesman David Jansen said the NHS is taking the lead on this stage of the project, and

is currently working on an estimated budget for the planning work. A \$26.2-million planning grant was announced by Health Minister Deb Matthews in mid-January.

NHS spokesman Brady Wood said there has already been considerable progress made towards planning for the new hospital.

"There's actually quite a lot of planning going on, and I'm sure the budget is a component of that planning," he said. "I think there's a lot of energy. A lot of folks on the planning team are here, and obviously you'll see more. As we move forward we'll keep folks abreast of what's happening."

Despite the uncertainty with a provincial election pending, Wood said the project is moving forward.

"I think the NHS is very much working based on the

directions of the supervisor's report, and working with the LHIN and ministry on this," he said, referring to the September 2012 report by the NHS's chief executive officer Kevin Smith.

"That said, we respect that the political process is ongoing and we will work with the elected officials as always," Wood added.

For now, he said the NHS will continue to work to implement the directions of the government, and "very much want to work with all the communities to implement what I think is a very inclusive plan."

The city's health care committee chairman, Ward 2 Councillor Frank Campion, said the motion Forster will be presenting to the provincial government falls in line with the position the city has taken regarding hospital services for the south Niagara area. He

said her motion was developed using some of the information compiled by the city.

Campion said he recently filed a freedom of information request asking the Ministry of Health for a price comparison between rebuilding the Niagara Falls hospital and retaining existing sites, and building a single new hospital in Niagara Falls while closing hospitals in Welland, Port Colborne and Fort Erie.

He said the cost of retaining existing hospitals is only \$4.5 million more than the \$880 million cost of building a single new hospital.

"Cindy's motion is a good one and we hope she is successful. Some members of the MCC and other members of the community will be at Queen's Park to support her motion," Campion said.

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■ **MUSIC**

## Lakeshore student 'slays it' at guitar competition

From Page 1

Holmes was so blown away by Leslie's performance, he didn't stop at a perfect score of 10, but broke the bar to give her 15.

Leslie admitted stepping on the stage rattled her nerves, but she said that to fuel her high-energy performance.

"I went out there, pointed up at the judges, got into the camera and tried to give my attention to everyone," said the Grade 10 student.

"My goal was to go out there and please the crowd by doing what I love. I

wanted to show them what a small town was capable of," Leslie said.

Music Not Mischief is a police youth mentoring program that brings members of participating police services together with youth for weekly guitar lessons. It's intended to create a positive relationship between students and police, and to deter teens from criminal activity.

Leslie, mentored by Niagara Regional Police Const. Shawn Cuke, went up against 14 other students, who were mainly from the Greater

Toronto Area.

"It was amazing. It was perfect. I thought I had a little bit of a chance to win, but my hopes weren't very high. I just wanted to do the best I could and hopefully win," she said.

As the winner of the competition, Leslie was able to keep the guitar she used during her performance.

"I wasn't competing to win any prize. I wanted the title," she said. "It was the best performance I've ever given."

About 300 spectators watched on as Leslie left it all on stage.

"It's a bigger crowd than what I'm used to playing for. It was really surreal. I think I'm still in shock," she said.

"I'm really thankful for everyone, their support and giving me this opportunity. I couldn't be more grateful and blessed."

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SUPPLIED PHOTO: LISA MACINTOSH  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Jessica Leslie is pictured with Adrian Blaney, of the band Tracine.



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## LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUNICIPAL ELECTION:** Badaway – if he seeks re-election – has two challengers so far

## Sloat vying to become Port Colborne's mayor

**MELISSA MANGELSEN**  
InPort News Staff

Problems faced by Port Colborne will take more than a four-year term to fix, says Mike Sloat, who wants to be the city's next mayor.

Sloat and John Maloney, the former Liberal MP who announced his candidacy earlier this month, are both looking to unseat Vance Badaway – who has yet to let residents know if he plans to run for re-election.

Sloat, owner of @27 Restaurant and a familiar face



MIKE SLOAT

anything is going up and it's a killer. It's really hurting the little guys," he said. "I'm 52 years old and have a lot of gas in the tank to get what needs to be done done."

with the chamber of commerce, filed papers on April 17 hoping to keep a closer eye on taxpayer dollars.

"The cost of everything is going up and it's a killer. It's really hurting the little guys," he said. "I'm 52 years old and have a lot of gas in the tank to get what needs to be done done."

Sloat said he plans to focus on job creation and economic development, fiscal responsibility, debt management and a back-to-basics approach to address high water bills and municipal planning.

"The property taxes are very high here – both in the residential sector and commercial. The wastewater rates are also really high. They're some of the highest in the region," he said.

"I will also focus on growing our residential sector here. Port Colborne had one new house built last year. That's

not a good sign," Sloat said.

"One house is not going to increase the tax base with costs soaring every year. Areas around us are growing. We need to find out what needs to be done to get residential development here, and do it."

Sloat said he would like the city to look at the big picture.

"The city does the studies and hires experts for what. They need to act on what the experts are telling them. More money in, less money out. In order to increase the tax base and decrease the tax burden.

The city spent money on an economic development strategy and action plan that Sloat feels isn't being used to its potential.

"The focus needs to be on business retention and putting measures in place to get small businesses here, rather than trying to catch the big industrial fish that never come," said Sloat.

He said he is ready for the challenge of being mayor.

"My biggest goal is to bring the city back into the black."

Sloat has spent the past 10 years as president/vice-pres-

ident of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and sat on the board of directors of both Port Cares and Port Colborne Hospital Foundation. He is also a charitable sponsor of various local sports teams, schools and community groups.

His mother was a politician in Ancaster for 30 years.

"Needless to say, she was thrilled when she found out I was going to run for mayor," Sloat said.

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■ **BUSINESS**

## Clock to be anchored on Port's Main St.?

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
InPort News Staff

It's time for change on Main St.

Port Colborne's Gateway business improvement area board is moving forward with plans to put a clock along one of the city's main thoroughfares.

Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch, a Main St. business owner and BIA member, shared the clock's design during Monday's city council meeting.

Plans are to put it on the front yard of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce at the cost of the BIA, he said.

The business group will also maintain the fixture, but is asking that the city run hydro to the clock and put flowers in the surrounding planter, Danch said.

The design includes an anchor and buoy marker to tie in with the city's marine heritage.

City staff met with the BIA board two weeks ago to learn more about the "great plan for enhancement of the grounds," said Ron Hanson, Port Colborne's director of engineering operations.

He estimated it will initially cost the city \$2,500 to supply flowers and run hydro



SUPPLIED ILLUSTRATION

Port Colborne's Gateway business improvement area board is planning to put a clock in the front yard of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.

from the building to the fixture.

Funding is available from Niagara Region to assist with such projects, he added.

A report on the clock is expected to come forward to council at a future meeting.

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■ **EDUCATION**

## Local students shine at energy competition

**MELISSA MANGELSEN**  
InPort News Staff

They were ready to blow away the competition.

And when students from Lakeshore Catholic and Notre Dame high schools arrived to the WindENG2014 High School Wind Energy Design Competition, they gave it all they had.

Their team, dubbed Swamp Power, captured a third-place win and the best craftsmanship award at the April 25 event held at Guelph University.

Notre Dame students Alex Hoelzli, Jesse Maurice and Corey Scarra, along with their Lakeshore teammates Michael Reznar and Domenic Magazzini constructed an energy-generating wind turbine that used a DC motor as the generator. The DC motor relies on magnetic force to operate.

"It's important to make it as light weight as possible and innovative. There are more points for innovative design than the traditional windmills," Hoelzli said.

The Swamp Power team also faced an interview component and was judged on use of recycled materials.

During the competition, the team's wind turbine was placed in a wind tun-



MELISSA MANGELSEN/INPORT NEWS STAFF

The Swamp Power team, which consisted of students from Lakeshore Catholic and Notre Dame high schools, won third overall at the WindENG 2014 High School Wind Energy Design Competition last week. From left, Alex Hoelzli, Corey Scarra, Michael Reznar and Domenic Magazzini.

nel – a piece of equipment that produces constant air speed within a contained space.

The project took the students about 80 extra-curricular hours to complete and combined three programs – wood shop, metal shop and video.

"We put a lot of time into this. Half of the project was in design and the other half was testing it and revamping it to make it as light as possible," said Hoelzli.

Harvesting wind energy is an exciting prospect that provides solutions to the province's energy needs, said Lakeshore teacher

Mike Stevenson.

"It's exciting to go to the competition and to see what the students have been working so hard on be recognized," said Stevenson.

The government recently decided to open net metering to the general public to help make clean renewable energy more accessible.

"The purpose of this competition is to promote interest for environmentally sound alternative energy solutions and foster engineering design skills," Stevenson said.

Hoelzli and Scarra moved on to the Ontario

Technological Skills Competition, May 5 to 7 at Rim Park in Waterloo.

"We go into that competition as individuals and we don't know what we have to do to construct until the day of the competition," Hoelzli said.

Both Hoelzli and Scarra attended Skills Ontario last year and both finished fifth in their respective categories.

"My goal is to do better than that year. I have to do better than that this time around," Hoelzli said.

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# INPORT NEWS

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## Our chance for multiple hospitals, tutors and gondolas

**S**o, we're heading for a provincial election. Break out the promises!

I mean, forget that Ontario now operates with a massive deficit. There are in need of children's garages in need of cars and Niagara train stations in need of GO locomotives.

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley appeared to have his fog machine working at full blast following his week's budget when he told The Standard's Grant LaRue he's optimistic the right steps are being taken to eventually bring GO train service to Niagara.

That utterance probably sounds lame to most people, but in Bradley's world he's actually going out on a limb.

Thus, expect the Liberals to make some sort of commitment to bring rail service to Niagara in a few years.

Hey, why not? It's only a campaign promise.

But not the just the big stuff that can be used to attract support from the deluded in Niagara.

Why, just the other day Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates was criticizing Premier Kathleen Wynne for not stepping in to prevent Parliament Oak School in Niagara-on-the-Lake from closing.

Folks, if voters believe a provincial premier should somehow overrule a democratically elected school board to save a small school in a pupil-starved community... well, everything's up for grabs.

Such as:

Promising GO trains is a given. We want more.

For instance, we should demand bar service featuring VQA wines. After all, it's a long trip home from Toronto via downtown Hamilton.

And what's the deal with only building one other hospital in Niagara?

Yeah, the one allegedly planned for Niagara Falls is nice. But we want the Welland hospital to stay open and a new one for Grimsby. Maybe Thorold, too.

The Conservatives seem to be big on reducing taxes. They need to be more specific, though.

They should promise tax cuts to millions to help spur action on the Port Place condo tower. C'mon, those units are expensive.

Help should also be offered in case the Burgundy Bridge has to remain closed for a year or two.

I'm thinking a provincially run gondola service across Twelve Mile Creek and Highway 406. Maybe a deal can be made with the Spanish Aero Car company in Niagara Falls. Sure, it'll be expensive. But, remember, the service will only be temporary. And it'll lose less money than GO trains to Niagara.

Parliament Oak School should, of course, remain open. As an alternative, though, promises could be made to provide the displaced students with individual tutors rather than shuffle them off to Virgil. What the heck, in a few years there'll only be about 50 of them.

How about the issue of municipal reform in Niagara?

Local governments can't seem to make any headway on this file, so perhaps it's time for the province to take action.

Surely, if the NDP believes Ques's Park should intervene on a local school board matter, the same should hold true at the municipal level. Finally, the promise we should be insisting upon: a majority of Niagara municipalities must agree by the end of 2015 to form one city or such talk will be banned until the 22nd century.

Finally, there is the issue of offering broader opportunities for the sale of Ontario wines, a promise near and dear to the hearts of Niagara vintners. Indeed, the Conservatives have made noises about allowing such sales at corner stores.

Forget that.

We need to insist wine kiosks be set up inside doughnut shops.

Think big, Niagara.

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

**I** am the father of four children. The oldest will be 21 in less than a month and the youngest will be 12 in less than two months.

Since last week we've all back under one roof. Our second oldest had been away at university, living in a dorm room at McMaster University in Hamilton. I wasn't like she was gone for months at a time or anything like that. She came home every two or three weeks which always made my wife and me very happy. This was our first experience of one leaving the nest, even for a little while. We were spared that from our oldest because she chose to attend Brock University and live at home while she was doing that.

Now we've got about four months when everyone will be home. I like it. I love my kids and we all get along quite well. Oh, I realize that they won't be living under my roof forever. I'm not one who wants to stop time. I know things change. I know people change. I'm proud to see my children grow into adults and I'm eager to see what kind of a mark they'll make on the world.

I think, at least I hope, that's what all parents want. Don't we have children

just so that we'll have someone to boss around. We don't have children just to bring more people into the world who are supposed to love us. That would just be selfish, and while human beings tend to have selfish tendencies I don't think that ought to be our goal at all.

What we should want is to teach our children the best we can, to raise them the best we can, to provide the best example we can for them, and to love them the best we can. Then when they grow into adulthood they will go out and make a difference in the world, make the world a better place in their own way. I'm seeing that happen in my own kids and it makes me proud, but I don't exactly like that word, "proud." Pride, after all, is one of the seven deadly sins, some say the first and worst of them all.

Instead of pride I like to try to turn that feeling into thankfulness. I'm thankful that God has given me these children and this family as part of my life. I'm thankful that I have my family something to do with the people they have become and are becoming.

That's my family. Our family is likely different. Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and configurations. For some, children aren't a part of the equation. That doesn't mean that your life can't have an effect or be an example

for others. For some, a spouse or partner might be a part of the equation. That doesn't mean that you don't have some other form of family with whom you interact.

In the church we sometimes talk about being family. That can sound exclusionary because an outsider can feel it hard to fit in. I think if we call ourselves "our family" we may not be intentional about being welcome and open to allowing others to easily become part of that family. Family, as a metaphor for the church, can describe the love we have for each other. We do talk about being sisters and brothers in Christ but it's not a blood thing, it's a water thing. We're related through the waters of baptism, the waters by which we're all adopted as daughters and sons of God.

I'm glad to have all of my children back under one roof with me. It won't last forever but our connection and our love for each other will last forever and for all time. I'm thankful that I have my family and that my family can be a good metaphor for the church. Our connection and our love for each other as daughters and sons of God, as sisters and brothers in Christ, holds us together. May you find that in your church and if you're not part of a church family search one out and give it a try. I believe you will be blessed.

## Doubtful election will change much

**I**m an honest guy. I can admit when I'm wrong. I mean, it's not that I always think I'm right. I just find it hard to function using the opposite conclusion as a starting point.

I was a little surprised when NDP honcho Andrea Horwath threw down the gauntlet Friday, setting the stage for a June provincial election.

I'm surprised because, tactically, it's hard to see what Horwath has to gain here. While it's important to caveat any mouth and pulled the trigger. A weak Liberal party won.

As a leader, Hudak lacks Tory's charm but still appeared to be ready to sweep the Liberals out of power last election. But he was doomed by his inability to connect with the public beyond the party faithful, along with allowing former premier Dalton McGuinty to set the tone of the election. His double-dig pitfall lead vanished and a weak Liberal party won.

This time, it does not appear to be the Tories' election to win. The race begins as a dead heat with the Liberals. Which could tell us something about the general mood of the province.

People are largely tired of the Liberals. Putting aside the fact that no government during a time of economic decline is going to be popular, the Liberals have to answer

victory further out of range.

At least now, Horwath knows the Liberals are at a low point she may be able to use to her electoral advantage. So what about the other parties?

Tim Hudak's Progressive

Conservatives are in an odd position.

When the last two elections were called, they appeared to be the Tories' to lose. Former PC boss John Tory was as electable a leader as a party could ask for. But he showed the policy bazaar, known as public funding for faith schools, in his mouth and pulled the trigger. A weak Liberal party won.

As a leader, Hudak lacks Tory's charm but still appeared to be ready to sweep the Liberals out of power last election. But he was doomed by his inability to connect with the public beyond the party faithful, along with allowing former premier Dalton McGuinty to set the tone of the election. His double-dig pitfall lead vanished and a weak Liberal party won.

This time, it does not appear to be the Tories' election to win. The race begins as a dead heat with the Liberals. Which could tell us something about the general mood of the province.

People are largely tired of the Liberals. Putting aside the fact that no government during a time of economic decline is going to be popular, the Liberals have to answer

for several high-profile financial scandals that would, all things being equal, result in a public drubbing at the polls.

But things are not equal. Despite the scandals, the Liberals remain, at the start at least, in position to form another government.

Why?

Well, let's face it. It's not because the Liberals are doing such a great job. And while Premier Kathleen Wynne's budget had enough goodies to win some fans, I highly doubt the electorate are abuzz about it.

When it comes down to it, I suspect that we, the citizens, have grown tired with the whole pompous crowd of them. When it comes down to it we don't, fairly or not, trust any of them to look after any interest but their own regardless of what standard they march under.

Which is why I am not sure this election will change much. At the risk of being wrong again, and barring the kind of changes a campaign can bring, it looks to me like we are headed to a Liberal or Tory minority government, neither of which is likely to survive for long.

And if we end up back at the polls in the fall or winter, we have Horwath to thank for it.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## EDUCATION

# Leadership on display at Port High

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Inport News Staff

Austin Stastny walked into a packed gymnasium at Port Colborne High School last Wednesday and locked eyes with his peers around the room.

"It was the look on their faces that made it all worth while," he said, after organizing a youth leadership event for his fellow Blue Bears.

The Grade 11 student attended the Central Ontario Leadership Seminar in May 2013 and upon his return to Port High approached principal

pal Nigel Evans with a proposal to host a similar event at the school.

Stastny spent the last year planning and organizing the initiative, which brought in top-notch motivational speakers Blake Fly and Sunjay Nath.

"This is all on Austin," said Nath, who is one of the most sought-after speakers in education. "He did the fundraising for this event and organized it beyond ridiculousness."

In a fun and interactive way, Nath teaches students to deal with some of their fundamental concerns like handling peer

pressure and building self-confidence.

He has a unique blend of humour, experience and passion and arms his presentations with stories, games, songs and magic tricks.

"I'm a believer that input effects output and that we're all a master of our own destinies," said Nath, who has spoken at more than 1,200 schools.

He is no stranger to Port High. Nath was last at the school in December 1999 to deliver a motivational message.

See LEADERSHIP on Page 6

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## ■ LEADERSHIP

## Motivational speakers inspire at Port High

**From Page 5**

"I was involved in a leadership role in high school as a member of student council, voted high school valedictorian and worked in the residence life in university."

said Fly. "I loved it so I took it on the road. I saw guys like Sanjay doing this for a living and decided to turn my passion into my career."

"It was my intention that students could sit back and

see that they can make a difference in the world - both locally and globally," Stastny said. "If you use your mind and use a critical process, you can make it happen."

Nath said seeing the way

Stastny's fellow students respect him was amazing to

"His leadership abilities are incredible. When he speaks his peers listen to him," said Nath.

Fly said he was blown away when he walked into Port High for the leadership event.

"It was so well organized. Everything has gone smoothly. There were signs

posted to let people know where to go. Statsny's the man - this has been a great event," said Fly.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## IN BRIEF

### Group home coming to Port

The Kilgaly St. E. building that formerly housed a Port Colborne credit union will soon be transformed into a group home for developmentally-challenged adults. The building, which was home to Caissa Populaira before the business moved to Clarence St., was the topic of a public planning meeting Monday night.

A zoning bylaw amendment is sought to permit a group home and respite site, which will accommodate 20 to 25 clients during the day and five over night.

A report on the zoning bylaw

amendment will come forward to council at a future meeting.

### Port vying to be bike-friendly

The wheels have begun turning to make Port Colborne more bicycle-friendly.

In an effort to advance bike opportunities in the lakeside city, council approved creation of an active transportation committee.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said the city is "a bit behind" in its potential as a cycling community and development of the committee will assist with that.

More information on the committee is expected to be brought forward to a future council meeting.

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## FINANCES

# Port water rates jump 2.12%

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

It will cost the average Port Colborne ratepayer an extra \$25 to turn on the taps this year.

Council passed the city's water and sewer rates April 28, approving an overall annual increase of 2.12% for the average user of 0.75 cubic metres of water per day.

That means the average user can expect to shell out a total \$1,224 in 2014 compared to \$1,199 in 2013.

The lakeside city's water usage rate will jump to \$1.09 from \$1.07 per cubic metre. Its annual water fixed charge to \$262.42 from \$276.09, sewer usage rate to \$321.43 from \$315.18, and sewer fixed rate to \$321.13 from \$314.69.

"We believe it's a fair budget based on cost of living," Peter Senese, Port Colborne's community and corporate services director, said during Monday's council meeting.

cil meeting.

The city, he said, has increased its rates less than what was projected in its 10-year water financial plan created in 2010.

Water use has been higher than expected, he said, which has allowed the increase to remain minimal and the budget sustainable.

"It's good news for the municipality — we're able to keep the cost and increase down."

Through Niagara Region's wastewater reconciliation, which estimates costs based on the previous three-year average, Port Colborne underpaid by \$199,000 for 2013 as its sewer flows were higher than predicted.

That cost will be covered by an expected 2013 surplus and the city's wastewater reconciliation reserve that contains \$109,000, Senese said.

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## ROADS: Intersection of Killaly St. E. and Elizabeth St. to remain as is Proposed four-way stop nixed in Port

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Inport News Staff

Discussion about traffic at a busy Port Colborne intersection has come to a stop.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet asked councillors April 28 to revisit the idea of placing a four-way stop at the intersection of Killaly St. E. and Elizabeth St.

Reconsideration of the issue, previously brought forward in 2011, was passed to allow discussion on the topic. The intersection has stop signs at Elizabeth St., but not Killaly.

Doucet believes the area remains a problem for both drivers and pedestrians, due in part to the excess traffic created by Vale Health and Wellness Centre down the street.

Vehicles are becoming backed up at Elizabeth St. stop signs, pedestrians are having difficulty crossing due to heavy traffic and drivers are speeding down other side streets to avoid the traffic jam, he told councillors.

"Right now flow isn't happening," he said, adding a four-way stop would mitigate that issue.

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele said he's often in the area and rarely has to wait at the intersection.

"This isn't Toronto," he said, adding he does not believe further traffic controls are needed.

Crossing guards are posted in the neighbourhood during weekdays to ensure students travelling to nearby schools get their safety, he said, and "police are constantly in that area."

"I can't see taking Killaly and making it a more congested area. It's a thor-



PHOTO: J. HANSON

oughfare," Steele said.

"I'm not in favour of flooding this city with stop signs — I think we have too many now."

The site doesn't meet warrants for traffic controls and has not seen a car crash since 2011, said Ron Hanson, Port Colborne's director of engineering and operations.

He cited "pedestrian safety and speed" as two main reasons for opposing a four-way stop.

Studies show, he said, there's a high amount of noncompliance at "unwarranted stop signs."

"If people feel they shouldn't be here, they will roll right through them."

This gives pedestrians a false sense of security when walking through an intersection, he added.

Council voted in favour of keeping the intersection as is.

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# LOCAL NEWS



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## ■ HISTORY

### Port museum honours war vets

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Import News Staff

Gordon Beam sat in the trenches of the First World War 100 years ago. His pen hit the paper as he wrote to his mother who was back home in Port Colborne.

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum has included Beam's letter as part of its From the Home Front to the Front Line exhibit that will be on display until December.

"Port Colborne had citizens who were involved in the First World War," said assistant curator Michelle Mason. "We want to commemorate the start of the First World War with a local spin."

The museum put a call out to its residents to lend wartime items for its exhibit that focuses on first-hand experiences of Port Colborne's citizens, both at home and on military service. "We wanted them to tell their stories through objects, documents and photographs," said Mason.

The museum will welcome students for tours to teach them about the First World War, as well as the War of 1812.

\*This is the last year for the 1812

events," said educational programmer Sebastian Hahjan. "We're going to bring students in to show them how war evolved from 1812 to the Second World War in Canada."

The exhibit has personal items and letters from Russell Lambert Boyle, who was born in Port Colborne in the late 1800s. The exhibit also recognizes the Schooley triplets, Ethel Carter and has an original First World War uniform from a Welland veteran.

German helmets, hats and a gas mask worn also round out the From the Home Front to the Front Line exhibit.

There will be a bus tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake May 9 to see the Niagara Historical Society and Museum exhibit The Art of War. It is a guided walking tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with lunch, a stop at a chocolate factory and a tour of the Port Colborne museum's new exhibits.

The cost is \$65 for museum members and \$69 for others.

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■ **ENERGY:** Industrial stakeholders asking for break in hydro rates to compete with U.S.

# Group seeks power play

**ROB HOULE**

QMI Agency Niagara

Stakeholders are hoping to flick the switch on an industrial rebirth in Niagara.

The Industrial Power Users of Niagara group is calling on the provincial government to implement

a 10-year pilot program that would see industries within a 50-kilometre radius of Niagara Falls get a break on the cost of hydro.

"We feel strongly that to compete in this region — and I'm going to call the region Buffalo-Niagara — we need to address energy prices for industry," said

Tim Clutterbuck, spokesman for IPUN and president of ASW Steel in Welland.

The Beck Economic Cluster Pilot program would see large and small industries whose power costs represent more than 7.5% of fixed costs receive a two-cent per kilowatt-hour

break on electricity generated at Niagara Falls.

The break, Clutterbuck said, would counter energy incentives offered by New York State to industries that operate within a 50-kilometre radius of American power generation at Niagara Falls, NY.

IPUN estimates it would cost the province \$18 million per year to offer the break to existing industries in the Beck cluster, and potentially another \$17 million per year for businesses that expand or set up shop in the region.

The New York State ReCharge NY program administered by the New York Power Authority is state-wide and can provide up to 30% savings in the cost of electricity, NYPA spokeswoman Maura Balaban said in an e-mail.

The program, started in 2012, is available for seven years to industries that make new capital investments that lead to the retention or creation of jobs.

"Over the past three years, the ReCharge NY program has been on the forefront of the economic development agenda, successfully working to create and sustain jobs and new private-sector investment in communities across New York," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a March 6 news release.

"Low-cost power is a valuable resource for businesses as they look to expand here in New York, and this innovative program is leveraging the state's power genera-

tion capacity to create jobs and grow the economy. With the recent news that the unemployment rate in Upstate New York has dropped to its lowest level in the past five years, it is clear that our focus on jobs, jobs, jobs is paying off."

Half of the power allocation in the ReCharge program (455 megawatts) is derived from electricity generated from the state's Niagara River hydroelectric plant. The March 6 release from the governor's office says 607 businesses and 69 not-for-profit enterprises are benefiting from the program and "committed to support more than 384,000 jobs and undertake billions of dollars in capital investments."

The NYPA also has an "expansion and replacement power" program, in which two large blocks of electricity from its Niagara hydroelectric plant are sold under seven-year contracts at a discounted price to businesses within 50 kilometres that commit to capital investments and creating jobs.

The electricity in those two large blocks that is not allocated is sold, with the proceeds going to other economic stimulus projects.

IPUN says access to cheap electricity was a catalyst in establishing a heavy industrial base in Niagara, but that advantage began to diminish in the mid-1980s when the province moved to a more uniform method of billing.

See **INDUSTRY** on Page 13

## In The NEWS



### SOBEYS 2013 BIG BIKE TEAM

Join your Port Colborne Sobeys for a fundraising BBQ this Saturday, May 10 from 11 am to 4 pm. Sobeys is raising funds for their team on the Big Bike Ride taking place May 21<sup>st</sup>. Net proceeds from the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Big Bike Ride go to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

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**PAWSitive Action Walkathon**  
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All proceeds will go to the Emergency Animal  
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## Flicking the switch on industrial rebirth

"We need as many tools in the toolbox as

The conservation program incents

Codd-Downey noted ASW Steel will benefit from the IEI program through its plan to expand and create 45 jobs.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## AUTO RACING



FILE PHOTO

Cars in the sportsman class battle for position in this May 2013 file photo at New Humberstone Speedway. The Port Colborne track begins its 55th season Sunday night with a 55-lap feature in the popular sportsman division.

## High 5s for Port track

BERND FRANKIE  
Inport News Staff

With the notable exception of the date, it will be high all around at New Humberstone Speedway's season opener Sunday night in Port Colborne.

General admission for the first checkered flag of the 55th season is \$5.55, and the main event in the five-division program will be a 55-lap feature in the popular sportsman class.

"Our most popular division as far as driver count would be the DirtCar sportsman. It is also our top division at the speedway," track spokesman Clinton Geoffrey said.

Humberstone's mini stocks would also have to be the running for most popular class at the quarter-mile dirt track on Hwy. 3 just east of Port Colborne.

"Each fan has their own pick, but I'm sure the one division that really had them on their feet most nights last year with three- and four-wide racing would have to be the mini stocks," he said.

The mini stocks will be racing in 15-lap feature on opening night as will drivers in the pro 4 truck division. Main events in the late model and street stock classes will each be 20 laps.

Having a regular program on the racing calendar for the late model division should boost competition at Humberstone, given that there is racing in this class at two tracks in western New York.

"This should help improve car counts and also bring drivers to the speedway that we have never seen before," Clinton said.

All divisions start the season with an open-draw format.

"Everyone has an equal chance to be on the pole," Steven Petty, the Humberstone's director of public and media relations, said.

Two years ago the track switched its racing night back to Sundays from Fridays, with no noticeable change in attendance.

"It was about the same as it is now. The track has been on Sundays for more than 50 of its years and that seems to be where

it fits best," Clinton said.

Moving start times to the afternoon in hopes of boosting attendance is a non-starter, according to the track official.

"Racing early in the day would make the track too dry and dusty for the racers to safely drive on," Clinton said.

"They could drive on it, but making the move they do at close speed would not be safe in the dust visibility wise."

Events to celebrate Humberstone's 55th season include a visit by the DIRTcar 358 modified tour on Canada Day, the all-Canadian championships on the Civic Holiday weekend in August and the Eve of Destruction demolition derby to close out the season.

On Sunday gates open for both the grandstand and pit areas at 4 p.m. Racing gets underway at 6 p.m.

Track information is available online at [www.humberstonespeedway.com](http://www.humberstonespeedway.com).

bernd.frankie@sunmedia.ca  
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## Pharmacists

### DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Unfortunately mixing alcohol with certain types of prescription medications can be dangerous. Alcohol can increase the risk of severe CNS depression when taken with opioids, benzodiazepines and barbiturates. Alcohol can also affect drug metabolism (breakdown to active components), or the absorption of some drugs. Chronic alcohol intake can also cause problems with certain medications because of the effect it has on the liver and specific drug metabolizing enzymes.

Chronic alcohol use increases acetaminophen (TYLENOL) metabolism increasing its conversion to metabolites toxic to the liver. It is always best not to exceed four grams of acetaminophen a day, especially if you are a heavy or binge drinker because of the damage it can do to your liver.

Chronic alcohol use along with NSAIDs (Ibuprofen) or aspirin can increase the risk of GI bleeds. However, an occasional drink with NSAID use is not likely an issue.

If you are a patient on warfarin alcohol can inhibit warfarin metabolism and increase your INR. If you change your usual alcohol intake you should have your INR checked.

Certain antibiotics, and in particular metronidazole, has the potential when mixed with alcohol to make people quite ill. When taken to together a patient may experience low blood pressure, shortness of breath, facial flushing, and nausea.

Diabetic patients taking hypoglycemics such as GLYBURIDE or insulin are at risk of severe hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) when they drink alcohol. These patients should limit alcohol to an occasional single drink.

Any patient on medication for sleeping should be careful of alcohol consumption because of the additive effects of drowsiness and respiratory depression. Patients have been known to aspirate their own vomit and die from intoxication. This could be more likely to happen if a person mixes alcohol with their sleep medication.

This same problem could exist when patients mix alcohol and opiates.

It is always wise to consult your pharmacist or physician if you receive a new prescription and intend to have a few alcoholic beverages. Also please notify your physician or pharmacist if you are a chronic drinker. Even if you are not planning to drink while taking your prescription previous liver damage could affect how well you metabolize your medication. This could result in too high, or too low a dose for you.

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# INPORT DATEBOOK

MAY 8

### PHILOSOPHER'S CAFÉ

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6:30 p.m. Drop by for a lively discussion. This month's topic is "Cosmos Reboot — The

Future." All welcome.

MAY 8, 9, 10, 11

### GREASE: THE MUSICAL

is presented by Lakeshore Catholic High School May 8,

9, 10 at 7 p.m. and May 11 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium, 150 Janet St., Port Colborne. General admission \$15; seniors/students \$10. Call 905-835-2451 for tickets or information.

Continued on Page 18

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**MAY 10****CENOTAPH WALKATHON**

hosted by Wainfleet Lions Club starts 9:30 a.m. at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall. Pledge sheets are available at the township office, library, Wainfleet Avondale Donut Diner, Jackson's Auto Body and Wellandport Home Hardware & Farm Supply Store. For more information, contact the Lions Clubs' Martin VanGool at 905-835-8423 or George Oeruyte at 289-820-

6163.

**MAY 12****PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL**

Society meets at 7 p.m. at Portal Village Retirement Home. Linda Stanley will speak on a pictorial exhibit of the War of 1812. For more information call 905-834-4143.

**MAY 14****SECOND WORLD WAR**

Documentary Film Series at

Port Colborne Public Library, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

**MAY 20****POINT ABINO LIGHTSTATION**

Preservation Society (PALPS) holds its general meeting at the Crystal Ridge Library, 89 Ridge Rd. S., Ridgeway. Program: Climbing Cape Hatteras. Refreshments 6:30 p.m., business meeting 6:45 p.m., program 7:45 p.m. All welcome.

**MAY 21****WII BOWLING FOR SENIORS**

at Port Colborne Library, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

**MAY 22****GAME PALOOZA!**

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages can drop-in to play Nintendo Wii and board games.

**MAY 23****FAIR TRADE SOIREE**

IMPORT NEWS ■ THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

**MAY 24****ROAST BEEF SUPPER**

at Morgan's Point United Church, 1430 Lakeshore Rd., Wainfleet. Settings at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Adults \$15, children under 10 \$5. By reservation only. Call 905-899-0960 for tickets.

**SPRING TEA**

for St. James and St. Brendan Church, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne. There will be a door prize, 50-50 draw, sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee. Cost \$8.

with the Oscons of Jazz at Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at Ten Thousand Villages (905-834-6292) or from Rosemary at 905-835-9729.

**LIBRARY GARAGE SALE**

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on May 24 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ounville Public Library, 317 Chestnut St. Housewares, decorative items, crafts, jewelry, games and lots more. All clean and checked. Donations welcome starting May 17. Sponsored by Friends of the Ounville Public Library.

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by Lorna Vanderhaeghe

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in a dose of 8000mg per day was also given to a group of post menopausal women and they lost weight with no diet change. Just think if they would have eaten a fat burning diet too! **CLA PLUS** also contains green tea extract to super charge weight loss and rev up fat burning by enhancing metabolism.

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Belly fat is a stubborn problem. No end of sit-ups and crunches make it disappear. We know that insulin is implicated in belly fat weight gain in both men and women. Elevated insulin promotes weight gain, diabetes and excess belly fat. Skin tags are an early sign of pre-diabetes. Thankfully, busting belly fat and normalizing insulin just got easier. The nutrient ChiroSitol (pronounced "kur-au-sitol"), found in **GLUCOSmart** researched in over 30 studies at the Virginia Medical School, works to keep blood sugar in the healthy range. **GLUCOSmart** halts sugar cravings. But where **GLUCOSmart** really shines is in fighting belly fat in both men and women. Combine **CLA PLUS** along with **GLUCOSmart** and drink **SLIM-T** containing Garcinia and weight loss will be effortless.



When you purchase Glucosmart you will receive my book A Smart Women's Guide to Weight Loss FREE (a \$24.95 value).  
[www.hormonehelp.com](http://www.hormonehelp.com)

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